



Beaver County Emergency Services

Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 4, Issue 4

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!



AUTUMN, 2009

- *Building News*
- *Beaver Co. CART*
- *EMS & Fire Services Updates*
- *News & Notes*
- *Events Calendar*



Excitement is growing as Beaver County's new Emergency Services Center is nearing completion. The painting is complete, the flooring is underway, and the lot is paved. Equipment and furniture installations are scheduled to begin in October and November, with staff planning to make the transition to the new center in phases starting in December. The enormity of the 9-1-1 transfer is being tackled by vendors and staff who are working tirelessly on the details of ensuring a smooth and safe transition of public safety services from the old site to the new one.

For many more construction photos, go to: www.beavercounty911.com, Dispatcher Nick Sheleheda's online chronicle of the construction of our new center.

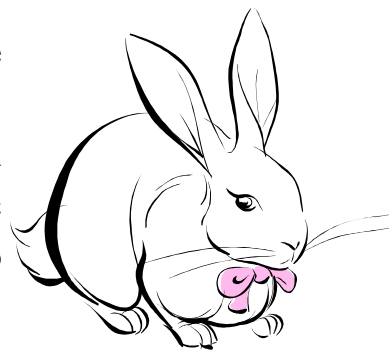


Beaver County is looking for volunteers to assist with the County Animal Response Team (CART).

Volunteers are needed to help with feeding and taking care of animals in a times of need.

Beaver County Emergency Services is preparing an Emergency Animal Plan to outline procedures for caring for companion animals during an emergency.

Animal protection planning should ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency. These plans may include measures to identify housing and shelter for animals, communicate information to the public and develop proper animal release forms and procedures to insure the return of animals to their rightful owner(s).



Domestic and non-domestic animals that are lost, strayed, incapable of being cared for by their owners, or present a danger to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of CART. These animals will be sheltered, fed and, if possible, returned to their owners' care.

If you have free time and would like to assist us or know of anyone who would, please fill out the form below. The pets of Beaver County along with their owners will be quite appreciative! If you have any questions, please call Beaver County Emergency Services at 724-775-1700. We will be more than happy to assist you.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address, City, Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please mail or fax completed form to Beaver County Emergency Services, 250 East End Ave., Beaver, PA 15009 / 724-775-1163, fax

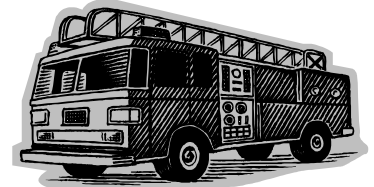
Reminder to all Fire Chiefs from Dave Trzcianka:

Since March of this year, I have been attempting to meet with the Fire Chiefs from all of the Fire Departments we currently provide dispatch services for in reference to the new Beaver County CAD system that will be coming on line in January of 2010. I still have not heard from 6 Fire Chiefs, and I have only had 11 Fire Departments turn in their new response plans. If response plans are not received at the Emergency Services Center by September 15, 2009, myself and the programmers will be writing response plans for those Fire Departments based on the type of call and the apparatus we feel is necessary to handle the situation. If you have not met with me yet, please contact me ASAP to set up a meeting time. I am available almost every Wednesday and Friday from 7 am to 5 pm. However, if those times do not work, we can schedule a time to meet in the evening.

If you have any questions, please contact me at dtrzcianka@beavercountypa.gov or call me or Director Wes Hill at 724-775-1700.

FIRE SERVICES UPDATES

By David Trzcianka



EMS UPDATES

By Eric Brewer



H1N1

The last time we talked in the late spring and early summer, there was much concern over a potential pandemic being called the "swine flu". Now known as the Novel H1N1 influenza, this virus has affected 1,988 people across the commonwealth. According to the PaDOH, Beaver County had 6 confirmed cases of this flu as of August 27th. With the H1N1 virus continuing to cause illness, hospitalizations and deaths in the US during the normally flu-free summer months and with some uncertainty about what the upcoming flu season might bring, the CDC has taken an important step in preparations for a voluntary novel H1N1 vaccination effort to counter a possibly severe upcoming flu season. Vaccines are the best tools that we have to prevent influenza. A Novel H1N1 vaccine is currently in production and may be ready for the public in the fall. The groups recommended to receive the H1N1 influenza vaccine include:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

... Continued on next page

EMS UPDATES, CONT.

Currently there is talk that paramedics will be permitted to provide the vaccines when they become available. Some believe that allowing paramedics to do this stemmed from the Hepatitis outbreak that happened in Beaver County in October/November of 2003. After several pleas to the Department of Health, we offered paramedics to assist with the mass immunizations at CCBC only to have nurses brought in from across the state. We have learned many things from this incident, and there have been improvements across the Commonwealth because of it.

Triage

When was the last time you or your agency used “triage tags”? Beaver County will be holding a “triage tag day” in September, before the G-20 Summit, just as a refresher. All too often, we put these kits in a cabinet somewhere on the truck and forget about them. We have several pieces of equipment that we do this with because we don’t use them on a day to day or even monthly basis, in fact, some may never use these tags in their career. However, we need to challenge ourselves to use the tags when we have a chance. Those accidents when you have 4 or 5 patients and you’re waiting for another unit or two to get on scene are good opportunities to fill out a tag to give to the incoming unit. The first time we see a triage tag shouldn’t be on “the big one”.

Planning/ Preparation

With major events comes planning, such as what has taken place prior to the G-20 Summit in the City of Pittsburgh. While Beaver County may not be as involved with the Summit as the City of Pittsburgh or Allegheny County, it has given us the opportunity to review our plans. Events like this are very dynamic; so what should we be doing in the EMS community?

- Review your mass casualty plans
- Review your PPE protocols & stock (millennium masks, high visibility vests, gloves, PFD, etc.)
- Do your vehicles have all of the necessary reference guides and materials that may be needed (DOT Guide, map books and others)?
- Make sure your credentials are in order (employee ID, state certification, drivers license, etc.)
- Just in time training (JIT) on equipment that is seldom used.

ATV attachment

We have recently obtained funds to purchase a stretcher mount attachment for the county’s “Toolcat”. This could be useful to your service for those patients that are in those hard to reach places that an ambulance cannot access. The unit has a stretcher mount and a crew seat that allows for the paramedic to bring equipment along for care if needed. This will be a nice asset to our resources.

Eric Brewer can be reached at ebrewer@beavercountypa.gov.

NEWS & NOTES

- Beaver County is in the process of forming a **CART, or County Animal Response Team**. Currently, a large animal planning group is meeting bi-monthly, and the county is looking for volunteers interested in small animal care and emergency planning. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information, or contact Debbie Miketa at 724-775-1700.
- Beaver County has also re-formed it's **VOAD** group after several years of absence. VOAD stands for **Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster** and includes representatives from County human services agencies, such as Beaver County Behavioral Health and the Office on Aging as well as service and faith based agencies such as the American Red Cross, U.S. SAAR, Catholic Charities, and ARISE. VOAD groups are tremendously helpful in filling unmet needs and coordinating donation management following a disaster, as witnessed by the efforts of these agencies following 2007's flood in the Aliquippa area. BC VOAD will be meeting quarterly at the Emergency Services center under the direction of its current chairperson, Victor Colonna.
- The 9-1-1 center has welcomed **four new trainees**, Daniel Lindsey, Brian Monza, Leah Pyle, and Michael Vallecorsa. The trainees are currently observing and doing light dispatch work under the supervision of senior dispatchers.
- **Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator quarterly training** was held on September 1st. Coordinators were invited to bring along their municipal elected officials to this quarter's training, which was held at the Community College of Beaver County. Discussion topics included an H1N1 virus update, a briefing on EMA Coordinator duties and responsibilities and an overview of mutual aid agreements and Title 35. The last training of the year is scheduled for **October 20**. Coordinators may choose to attend one of the two sessions scheduled for that day, 1 - 3 pm or 6 - 8 pm, at the Emergency Services center. Please call 724-775-1700 to reserve a seat.
- Emergency Services has hosted three ICS 300 classes and one ICS 400 class this year. The last NIMS class being offered by the county in 2009 will be **ICS 400 on October 10 & 17** (Saturdays) from 8 AM to 4 PM at the county's Hazmat Training facility on Route 51. To join the October ICS 400 class, please call 724-775-1700.
- Beaver County is preparing to support Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh for September 25th's **G20 Summit**. The Beaver County Emergency Operations Center will be activated and staffed on 24-hour operations from Wednesday, September 23rd through Friday, September 25th. Additionally, the county's Hazardous Materials Response Team 700 will be on shift standby for the duration of the event.

SEPTEMBER 2009

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- **1st:** Municipal EMA Coordinator Quarterly Training, CCBC, 6 PM
- **2nd:** Hazmat Team Training, Garage 6:30 PM
- **3rd:** Beaver Valley Power Station Siren Test, 6:15 PM
- **7th:** Labor Day Holiday, County Offices Closed
- **9th:** Fire Association Mtg, Garage 7 PM
- **10th:** BVARA Mtg, 7:30 PM
- **14th:** Emergency Services Golf Outing, Beaver Valley Golf Club
- **16th:** Chiefs of Police Mtg, Jeffries Landing, Noon
- **16th:** Hazmat Team Training, Garage 6:30 PM
- **17th:** Hazmat Refresher Training for Law Enforcement, Garage 1 PM
- **20th:** United Valley REACT Mtg, 6 PM
- **23rd:** Public Safety Commission Mtg, 7:30 PM
- **24th - 25th:** G20 Summit, Pittsburgh
- **26th - 30th:** Emergency Management Conference, Harrisburg

OCTOBER 2009

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- **7th:** Hazmat Team Training, Garage 6:30 PM
- **8th:** BVARA Mtg, 7:30 PM
- **10th:** ICS 400 Class, Garage 8 AM - 4 PM (1st of 2 days)
- **12th:** Columbus Day Holiday, County Offices Closed
- **14th:** LEPC Mtg, Noon
- **14th:** Fire Association Mtg, Garage 7 PM
- **17th:** ICS 400 Class, Garage, 8 AM - 4 PM (2nd of 2 days)
- **18th:** United Valley REACT Mtg, 6 PM
- **20th:** Municipal EMA Coordinator Quarterly Training, 1 - 3 or 6 - 8
- **21st:** Chiefs of Police Mtg, Jeffries Landing, Noon
- **21st:** Hazmat Team Training, Garage 6:30 PM
- **28th:** Public Safety Commission Mtg, 7:30 PM
- **28th - 29th:** PEMA Quarterly Training, Pittsburgh
- **31st:** Halloween

NOVEMBER 2009

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- **1st:** Daylight Saving Time Ends = Fall Back!
- **3rd:** Election Day, County Offices Closed
- **4th:** Beaver County VOAD Mtg, 10 AM
- **4th:** Hazmat Team Training, Garage 6:30 PM
- **5th:** EMS Providers Mtg, 10 AM
- **11th:** Veteran's Day, County Offices Closed
- **11th:** Fire Association Mtg, Garage 7 PM
- **12th:** BVARA Mtg, 7:30 PM
- **15th:** United Valley REACT Mtg, 6 PM
- **18th:** Chiefs of Police Mtg, Jeffries Landing, Noon
- **18th:** Hazmat Team Training, Garage 6:30 PM
- **18th:** Public Safety Commission Mtg, 7:30 PM
- **26th - 27th:** Thanksgiving Holiday, County Offices Closed

ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



EMERGENCY SERVICES

250 East End Avenue
Beaver, PA 15009
724-775-1700

BEAVER COUNTY
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JOE SPANIK
CHARLES A. CAMP

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ADMINISTRATION
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Want to contribute?
E-mail the editor,
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smu@beavercountypa.gov

The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter is created and published by the Beaver County Emergency Services Center (BCESC).

The BCESC is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. The BCESC manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. The BCESC is also the home of the county's Hazmat Team 700, the Public Safety Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services.

The BCESC works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to the residents and businesses of Beaver County.

Beaver County Emergency Services
250 East End Avenue
Beaver, PA 15009

